

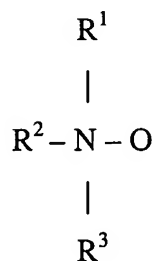
IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (currently amended) A process for the manufacture of a polyurethane foam or polyurea foam by conversion of

- (A) compounds containing at least two isocyanate groups with
- (B) compounds containing at least two reactive hydrogen atoms,
- (C) in the presence of one or more catalysts, wherein at least one of the said catalysts is an amine oxide and/or comprises at least one ~~amine-oxide~~ amine-N-oxide group,
-wherein during the course of the ~~reaction~~ said conversion a reaction temperature of 50 °C is exceeded to an extent that at least one residue attached to the N-atom of the ~~amine-N-oxide~~ said amine-N-oxide group is eliminated by cope elimination, and
-wherein the ~~amine-N-oxide~~ said amine oxide has three residues ~~that~~ each of which comprise no more than 8 carbon atoms and wherein said residues optionally comprise at least one ~~heteroatoms~~ heteroatom selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, ~~and/or~~ sulfur, and combinations, thereof, and
-wherein the ~~amine-N-oxide~~ said amine oxide has at least one residue ~~linked to the nitrogen atom~~ having a β -hydrogen atom relative to said N-atom of said amine-N-oxide group.

Claim 15 (currently amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein the said amine oxide has the following structure (I)



in which R¹, R² and R³ independently of each other are linear or branched hydrocarbon residues with 1 to 8 carbon atoms and/or one, two or all of said R¹, R² and R³ ~~comprises~~ full or are part of cyclic structures and/or contain heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and/or sulfur.

Claim 16 (currently amended) The process according to claim 15, wherein at least one of said R¹, R², and R³, independently of each other, is ethyl, n-propyl, isopropyl, n-butyl, isobutyl or tertiary butyl.

Claim 17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ said amine oxide is selected from the group consisting of triethylamine-N-oxide, N-ethylmorpholine-N-oxide, N-methylmorpholine-N-oxide, diethyloctylamine-N-oxide, dimethylcyclohexylamine-N-oxide, ethyldicyclohexyl-amine-N-oxide, N,N,N',N'-tetra-ethyl-bisaminoethyl ether-di-N,N'-oxide, diethylcyclo-hexylamine-N-oxide and diethylpiperzine-N-oxide.

Claim 19 (currently amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ said amine oxide is used at 0.01 to 5 % by weight based on the weight of compounds with reactive hydrogen atoms used.

Claim 20 (previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein said compound containing at least two reactive hydrogen atoms comprises a polyether with at least two free hydroxy groups.

Claim 21 (previously presented) The process according to claim 14, further comprising employing metal salts of organic compounds as catalysts.

Claim 22 (currently amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein beside the ~~amine-N-oxide catalysts~~ said amine-oxide no tertiary amine catalysts are used.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein besides the ~~amine-N-oxides~~ said amine-oxide no further polyurethane/polyurea catalysts are used.

Claim 24 (canceled)

Claim 25 (currently amended) The process according to claim 14, wherein during the course of ~~the reaction~~ said conversion a reaction temperature of 130°C is exceeded.

Claim 26 (currently amended) The process according to claim 14, further comprising adding one or more surfactants as foam stabilizers to ~~the reaction~~ said conversion mixture.

Claim 27 (previously presented) The process according to claim 26, wherein the foam stabilizer is a silicone.

Claim 28 (currently amended) A process for manufacturing a polyurethane ~~foam~~ polymer or a polyurea ~~foam~~ polymer comprising reacting

- (A) compounds containing at least two isocyanate groups with
- (B) compounds containing at least two reactive hydrogen atoms,
- (C) in the presence of one or more catalysts,

wherein at least one of the catalysts is an ~~amine-N-oxide~~ amine-oxide and/or comprises at least one amine-N-oxide group,

wherein during the course of ~~the reaction~~ said conversion a reaction temperature of 50 °C is exceeded to an extent that at least one residue attached to the N-atom of the amine-N-oxide group is eliminated by cope elimination, and

wherein ~~the amine-N-oxide~~ said amine-oxide has at least one residue ~~linked to the~~
~~nitrogen atom~~ having a β -hydrogen atom relative to said N-atom of said amine-N-oxide
group.

Claim 29 (currently amended) The process according to claim 28, wherein ~~the~~ said
reaction temperature during the course of ~~the reaction~~ said conversion exceeds a
temperature of 130°C.

Claim 30 (currently amended) The process according to Claim 28, wherein ~~the amine-N~~
~~oxide~~ said amine-oxide has three substituents that each comprise no more than 8 carbon
atoms and wherein said residues optionally comprise at least one heteroatoms heteroatom
selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen ~~and/or~~, sulfur and combinations
thereof.

Claim 31 (previously presented) The process according to Claim 28 further comprising
employing metal salts of organic compounds as a catalyst.

Claim 32 (currently amended) The process according to Claim 31, wherein ~~the~~ said
metal salt of ~~the~~ organic compounds comprises a tin salt of an organic compound.

Claim 33 (currently amended) The process according to Claim 32 wherein said tin salt of
an organic compound comprises ~~[[a]]~~ dibutyl tin mercaptide.

Claim 34 (currently amended) The process according to Claim 14, wherein ~~the~~ said
compounds containing at least two reactive hydrogen atoms comprise one or more
compounds selected from the group consisting of:
polyols, polyether polyols, polyester polyols, polythioether polyols, polyester amides,
polyether polyamines, polyacetals containing hydroxyl groups, aliphatic polycarbonates
containing hydroxyl groups and water.

Claim 35 (currently amended) The process according to Claim 21, wherein ~~the~~ said metal salt of ~~the~~ organic compounds comprises a tin salt of an organic compound.

Claim 36 (currently amended) The process according to Claim 35 wherein said tin salt of an organic compound comprises ~~[[a]]~~ dibutyl tin mercaptide ~~compound~~.